



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 1
MINUTES**

Date: December 9, 2014 6:30-8:30pm

Call to Order: 6:34pm

Board Members

Julie Noble (Chair)
Diane Bonavita
Emilie Hauser
Lynn Johnson
Kevin McEvoy (Secretary, (by phone)
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey

Guests: Nava Tabak (Scenic Hudson Conservation Scientist and former Rosendale Commission for Conservation and the Environment member), Kristen Schara (Hurley CAC member), Matt Akin (Kingston CAC Intern familiar with GIS mapping, Geography student at SUNY New Paltz), Amanda Lavalley (Ulster County Dept of Environment), Dave Yozzo (Hurley CAC member arrived approx 6:45PM), Laura Heady (NYS DEC Hudson River Estuary Program and Rosendale Commission for Conservation and the Environment member arrived approx 7PM); Elizabeth Broad (pending CAC member arrived approx 8:30PM),

- I. Welcome Guests and Public Comment:**
Julie called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM after which the council members and guests introduced themselves.
- II. Review and Approval November 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Upon motion duly made by Lynn and seconded by Casey, the minutes to the November meeting were approved unanimously as amended.
- III. Old Business**
 - a. **Natural Resources Inventory (NRI):** Emilie discussed preparing an NRI and Open Space Plan (OSP) as key role of the CAC and gave an overview of NRI and open space planning data available and history in the greater Kingston area from the 1990's to the present with discussion including but not limited to a class by Barbara Kendall on an NRI Guidebook in the 1990's, the 2009 Biodiversity training with Hudsonia which included mapping of Esopus Creek areas, the present Kingston 2025 comprehensive planning process, the 2014 Kingston Habitat Summary by Laura Heady & Habitat Mapping by Hudsonia as well as other studies and plans past and present including the Draft Preliminary Review of Open Space and Natural Resources primarily authored by Emilie. Kingston CAC is using the Rosendale NRI as a format for mapping layers. The process was briefly described as establishing a working group, gather data and maps, and formulating the plan.
 - b. **Scoping Roundtable:** Julie asked for experiences from the guests followed by Emilie asking each participant for a piece of advice.

1. **Hurley Open Space Plans:** Dave discussed the earlier open space plans in Hurley and the public outreach processes. The 2011 plan did not receive much public input and had some opponents. A revised plan is in progress with a community public input survey with questions done by mailing and a separate “survey monkey” public input survey with questions done recently. Alan Sorenson is the consultant for the plan revisions funded by a grant. The Hurley plan was reviewed by the town attorney but was not formally adopted by the Town.
2. **Rosendale NRI:** Nava discussed the need for having political support for an NRI as a lead in to an OSP mentioning that for NRI as opposed to an OSP data may be more important than public input. A summary will be needed to explain the maps. The Rosendale Town Board was supportive for the NRI but the Rosendale Planning Board does not always use the NRI although their consultant and the CAC members do. Jen Metzger who did much of the work on the Rosendale NRI with Nava was the liaison to the Rosendale planning board and presented the NRI. Rosendale had some localized data such as geology but did use much standardized data as well. Laura discussed a possible update of the NRI, which should be done every four or five years and will need to be done due to new data such as newly protected lands and new layers becoming available. Making maps and the document available in public spaces was a consideration regarding public outreach.
3. **Ulster County Open Space Plan:** Amanda discussed the Ulster County Open Space Plan (OSP) which did not prioritize for acquisition and which served more as an inventory. She noted that while the hydrography layer for Ulster County may be unique, most of the GIS layers are standardized state data with some localized data that may be unique to a specific municipality. Scale and context of the maps is important in presentation so as to create ease of use. Amanda continued referencing the map book accompanying the OSP that contains useful open space inventory maps for which Ulster County has been cited by the state as a statewide example. Connectivity of habitat corridors across town lines was an important factor to present but some localized data was not used so as to not have a data concentration in any one location within the county. It was noted that areas of open space in or near Kingston have connectivity to surrounding areas open space such as those in Hurley and Ulster and that New World Foundation is considering Esopus Creek riparian restoration.
4. **Wrap up:** Kristen discussed going from an NRI to an OSP and the need to define goals and communicate to the public. Laura discussed the NRI process of forming a working group, gathering data and maps, determining if a consultant is needed, utilizing guidance available, checking with stakeholder groups for public input and developing goals and priorities. Emilie and Laura further discussed HREP NRI guidebook and the New Hampshire guide. The group discussed integrating an NRI and/or OSP into a municipal comprehensive plan and determining what data should be included in light of the present pending Kingston comprehensive planning process. Nava suggested that the Kingston CAC move forward without a large budget since the Kingston CAC has a large amount of data and an intern available to get an NRI prepared. Laura suggested that the public input is important if the CAC wants to move an NRI towards an OSP. Regarding budgets, Rosendale had a very small budget while Hurley had volunteers for the first plan with a \$5K Greenway grant on the revision. Rochester and Wawarsing were mentioned as

communities receiving funding for an open space inventory which is greater in scope than an NRI but less than an OSP. Laura mentioned Conway School of Design as a possible resource. The difference between an NRI and the possible acquisition aspect of OSP which requires greater public support was articulated. The roundtable closed with the CAC thanking the guests for providing their valuable experiences, further discussion of public involvement possibilities and the ARC GIS capabilities Matt Akin will bring to the Kingston process.

- ii. **Update on Joint Meeting with Planning Board Planning;** Julie reported that there has not been a date set with planning for a joint meeting for mapping training regarding the county parcel viewer. The possibility of the CAC getting training separately from the planning board and presenting to them was mentioned. There is a possibility to set up a meeting with the county and planning in January.
- iii. **SUNY New Paltz Intern:** Matt Akin was introduced earlier in the meeting and will be assisting with GIS mapping with regards to the NRI.
- c. **Draft Hudson Landing Open Space Management Plan:** The Promenade was on the December Planning Board agenda and now has site plan approval. Kevin reviewed the CAC comments on the Promenade from December 2013 and re-submitted to planning at Suzanne Cahill's request prior to the Planning Board meeting. Regarding CAC comments submission on the draft plan, Kevin asked AVR for searchable document and discussed pending status of the review at Kingston Land Trust. Gregg discussed CFA grant status, construction management, site control whether easement or fee ownership and changes on the site plan. Julie, Emilie. Kevin agreed to review as an action item once a searchable document is received.
- d. **Budget:** There appears to be no funding for the CAC in the 2015 City budget at present.

IV. New Business

- a. **NYS Draft Open Space Conservation Plan:** As an action item, the council will review Kevin's comments, make revisions and submit comments within CAC scope.
- b. **Pilgrim Pipeline:** Common Council Member At Large Jim Noble received a communication from Jen Metzger regarding Rosendale's resolution concerning Pilgrim Pipeline proposal; Betta works with Jen Metzger on Citizens for Local Power and provided an overview of the proposed Bakken oil pipeline transport in the Hudson Valley roughly along the NYS Thruway corridor in its NYS section from Albany to New Jersey where it will be refined with the refined product transported back using a return pipeline. It was noted that Pilgrim had sent strongly worded letters to Rosendale residents attempting to gain survey access to their private property. The CAC approved a recommendation to the Common Council by unanimous acclamation a resolution based on the Rosendale resolution to reject any right-of-way for the purpose of transporting oil or gas via pipeline by Pilgrim and further calls upon the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) to deny an exception to its Accommodation Plan for said purpose with a support letter to come from Julie to include but be limited to danger of spills, climate action plan inconsistency, risks concerning Esopus Creek which has 303(d), impaired waterway status wetlands vulnerability, financial burdens for possible unfunded mandates and inappropriate use of local rail trail.

V. Announcements/Communications: NONE

VI. Reports:

- a. **Communications Working Sub-Committee/ Social Media (*Vacancy*):** Climate Smart Kingston will do communication. City website to go up 12-16. CAC communications have been discussed with Bette. A Sustainability Fair in the spring was mentioned.
- b. **EMC Liaison (*Emilie Hauser*):** no meeting due to Thanksgiving. Next meeting 12-10-14 6:30PM at 17 Pearl.
- c. **Planning Board Meeting Liaison (*Casey Schwarz*):** see discussion under AVR.
- d. **Public Safety Meeting Liaison (*Diane Bonavita*):** Rescheduled for 12-17. Pilgrim Pipeline resolution to be presented. See separate discussion herein.
- e. **Comprehensive Plan Liaison (*Gregg Swanzey/Julie Noble*):** The Steering Committee has not received word from Planning on release date for draft plan.
- f. **Ad Hoc Water Bottling Committee (*Diane Bonavita, Kevin McEvoy, Julie Noble, Gregg Swanzey*):** The committee is awaiting word on draft scoping.
- g. **Terms:** A letter requesting renewal of term expirations sent to the mayor. Diane is retiring from the CAC was thanked for her service and gave an overview of the CAC liaison role at the Common Council Public Safety Committee.
- h. **Meeting dates:** tentatively scheduled for 2nd Tuesday of the month in 2015.

VII. Adjournment: Upon motion by Casey seconded by Lynn, the CAC resolved unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 pm